

Letter from Mabel Hubbard Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, December 10, 1885, with transcript

Letter from Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell to Mrs. Alexander Graham Bell. December 10, 1885. My dear Alec:

Enclosed I send Professor Baird's letter. I am very sorry I forgot to ask him before. I hope it is not yet too late I wonder how you are. I wish you would write me a postal card every day I should think you would be as limited by that means as if you sent a telegram and much more economically. I am disappointed that the affairs of the school will not settle themselves. Poor Miss Hesselbach unfortunately sprained her foot the other day and has not been to school I fear it will be very expensive for her.

Papa is still in bed but Dr. Johnston says is doing well. I have a nice little surprise for you on your return I hope you will like it. This whole day has been just wasted and all through that Mrs. Hull. I heard from Dr. Radcliffe that she was distressed between her desire to have Mrs. Davis and the impossibility of paying both her and Miss Van Rannselear and her unwillingness to have you pay. So I wrote to her this morning saying she should not mind you would be glad to do it etc. But I found it as hard work as you could and after several attempts gave up and picked up a novel and that was the end for several hours and then I tried again and succeeded. But my day was wasted. I want you to come home and help me with my line writing. I am afraid to try my s's —, Nellie thinks she is doing well with the children, I am not quite so sure. I think she is wasting her energies on forms and neglecting the substance. For instance she will not give Pierson water until he spells "Please give me a drink of water" on his fingers. Now he knows "water" and always asks for it properly that is he spells "water". It seems to me Nellie should be satisfied with "water" and try to put more ideas in Pierson's mind instead of wasting her time trying to make him say one idea properly.

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I am half asleep. Goodnight, take care of your wife's husband.

May.